What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

SHANNA SCHMIDT NUMISMATICS INC

Newsletter #241:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello coin enthusiasts!

Welcome to the 241st edition of the Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. newsletter. The interval since our last communication has been longer than customary, and for that I offer my sincere apologies. The volume of auction activity in recent weeks has been exceptional, and the demands of monitoring and participating in an ever-expanding market have left little opportunity for timely correspondence.

At the time of writing, both Leu and Künker are conducting simultaneous week-long auction events — a scheduling reality that serves as an apt illustration of how profoundly the numismatic marketplace has evolved. There was a time, not so distant, when the auction calendar operated at a far more deliberate pace. Catalogs were distributed months in advance; serious collectors studied them carefully, made arrangements to travel overseas, and gathered to inspect selections of perhaps 300 to 500 coins before bidding in person in a single, focused session. The experience was considered communal, and unhurried.

That era has largely passed. The advent of electronic bidding platforms in the early 2000s initiated a steady expansion of auction volume, and the disruptions of the pandemic accelerated that trend dramatically. Last year, my office actively monitored in excess of 150 auctions — a figure that would have seemed implausible to collectors of an earlier generation, and one that reflects a fundamental restructuring of how ancient coins come to market. What was once a seasonal rhythm has become a continuous, year-round flow of sales requiring constant attention and discernment.

Other Exciting News to Share from Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.
I am pleased to share a few updates from Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. as well. Our website has recently been refreshed with the addition of three new employee biographies, giving clients and collectors a closer look at the knowledgeable team behind our operation. We believe that personal relationships and expertise are at the heart of this business, and we hope these profiles offer a better sense of who we are and the depth of experience we

Chicago next April, immediately following the Central States Numismatic Society coin show. This is a milestone we have been working toward for some time, and we look forward to bringing a carefully curated selection of ancient and world coins to the collecting community in person. Further details regarding the auction — including consignment opportunities and catalog information — will be announced in the months ahead. We hope to see many of you there and if you have coins you are interested in consigning please do get in touch.

Upcoming Sales
There were a number of significant auctions that passed without coverage in recent newsletters. The good news is that the calendar ahead is equally rich, and there is no shortage of opportunity for discerning collectors. The following sales merit your close attention.

Davisson's Auction 45 (25 March)
Davissons Ltd., a long running specialist dealer in ancient and medieval coinage, has their latest auction 45 available now — and as always with Davissons, what you see is what you pay. No buyer's premium. In a market where 20–25% premiums have become standard practice at major auction houses, that distinction is a meaningful one.
The current offering centers on the Peter Bartlett Collection — a distinguished single-owner consignment from a collector with a Life Fellowship at the American Numismatic Society and internationally recognized expertise in Visigothic coinage.
The heart of this auction however turns to gold, electrum, and silver from the very beginning of coinage itself, reaching back to the 7th century B.C. Standout material includes a rare electrum trite (1/3 stater) of Phanes — the earliest known occurrence of a legend on a coin — along with coins from Kroisos (Croesus), the first ruler to issue gold coins with standardized purity for circulation. (https://www.invaluable.com/ancient-coins/sc-KFMTXNI7E8/)The Kroisos material includes an exceptionally high-grade stater and two choice 1/3 staters showcasing both light and heavy issues.
(https://www.invaluable.com/ancient-coins/sc-KFMTXNI7E8/)Rounding out the early coinage section are exceptional quality issues from Aegina, Ephesos, Miletos, Phokaia, and numerous Ionian mints.

We will be participating so please get in touch if you need assistance.

H.D. Rauch — E-Live Auction (25-29 March)
Vienna's H.D. Rauch Auktionshaus is conducting a substantial five-session E-Live Auction this week, making it one of the most active European houses currently on the calendar.
Wednesday, March 25 at 5 PM CET — Orders, Decorations & Literature (Lots 1–627)
Thursday, March 26 at 5 PM CET — Celts, Greeks & Roman Republic (Lots 628–1,028)
Friday, March 27 at 5 PM CET — Roman Empire, Migration Period & Antiquities (Lots 1,029–1,541) Saturday, March 28 at 5 PM CET — World Coinage incl. U.S. (Lots 1,551–2,641)
Sunday, March 29 at 5 PM CET — Holy Roman Empire (Lots 2,642–3,206)

For collectors of ancient coinage, Thursday and Friday represent the sessions of primary interest, offering over 900 lots spanning Celtic, Greek, Roman Republican, Roman Imperial, and Migration Period material across two evenings. Thursday's Celtic section merits particular attention — Celtic coinage occupies a distinctive niche within ancient numismatics, clearly inspired by Macedonian prototypes yet rendered in an unmistakably Celtic idiom, with stylized features, abstract compositions, and swirling equestrian depictions that reflect a fascinating synthesis of classical influence and indigenous artistic sensibility.

posthumous issues of Alexander the Great. Friday's Roman Imperial and Migration Period session completes the ancient offering, spanning early imperial gold aurei through the transitional coinages of the successor kingdoms.

North American bidders should note that online bidding deadlines fall at 8 AM CET each morning — 2 AM Eastern / 11 PM Pacific the preceding evening. Absentee bids are strongly advised.

Stacks Bowers L.E. Bruun Collection, Part IV (24-25 March)
Stack's Bowers Galleries has made March 2026 a landmark occasion for international numismatics in New York City, and the centerpiece of that program demands the attention of any serious collector.

Part IV of the celebrated L. E. Bruun Collection will be offered on March 24–25, 2026, at the Kosciuszko Foundation on East 65th Street. The ongoing dispersal of this collection has been one of the defining numismatic events of recent years. To date, nearly 5,000 lots from the collection sold through live and internet auctions have realized in excess of €32 million including buyer's premium — and by all indications, the finest material has been reserved for this final chapter.
The March auction is devoted to Top Pop and high-graded coins spanning all periods of Scandinavian numismatics, from the earliest Viking Age issues through the decimal coinage of the twentieth century. For students of early medieval coinage, the Anglo-Danish material alone justifies close scrutiny. Lars Emil Bruun assembled more than 1,200 silver pennies of the Danish kings who ruled England in the eleventh century — Cnut, Harold Harefoot, and Harthacnut — selecting only the finest available examples over the course of his lifetime. Stack's Bowers has curated an exceptional group of these for the March sale, led by a Great Britain Penny, ND (1016–23), London Mint, Cnut, graded NGC MS-65. The sale will further include material from the Danish West Indies and the former trading post of Tranquebar on the Indian East Coast.
Immediately following the Bruun auction, Stack's Bowers will present The Manhattan Sale on March 26, 2026 — a specially curated world coin event — rounding out a full week of the highest-caliber numismatics in New York. For those with the opportunity to attend in person, this is a rare occasion to examine museum-quality material firsthand.
We will be bidding in this auction.

Coin of the week

Caria, Cnidus. c. 210-185 BC, AR Octobol or Siglos, 5.27g (19mm, 12h).
Head of Helios facing slightly r.; dotted border / ΦΙΛΙΝΟΣ Forepart of roaring lion r.; in l. field, grain ear

Pedigree: Ex M&M 13, 1954, 1180. Spink 50, 1986, 59. CNG 114, 2020, 352. Privately purchased from M. von Lennep in 1910-1911. From the English Queen's Counsel and Dr. F. Imhoof-Blumer collections. From the Datça (Cnidus) hoard, 1910.

References: Imhoof-Blumer, Karische Münzen, NZ 45, 1912, 37 (this coin). J. H. Nordbø, Utmyntningen på Knidos, 394 f. Kr. - ca. 210 e. Kr., Magistergradsavhandling Numismatikk, 1972, Series 13, 1043. HN Online –.

Grade: Lovely with cabinet toning. Beautiful artistry and EF

Price: $7750

Buy Coin

This impressive silver octobol (or siglos-weight piece) was struck at the important Carian port city of Cnidus during the late Hellenistic period, approximately 210–185 BC. Located at the tip of the Datça peninsula in southwestern Anatolia, Cnidus was one of the most prosperous maritime cities of Caria and played a prominent role in regional trade networks throughout the Classical and Hellenistic periods.

The obverse features a striking facing head of Helios, shown slightly turned to the right. Facing portraits remained relatively uncommon in Greek coinage due to the technical difficulty involved in engraving them convincingly. When executed successfully, however-as on the present example-they create a dramatic and lifelike effect. The type clearly reflects the artistic influence of Rhodian coinage, where Helios served as the principal civic emblem. Cnidus maintained strong economic and cultural ties with Rhodes, and the adoption of a Helios portrait likely reflects both these connections and the broader diffusion of Rhodian artistic models in the region.

On the reverse appears the forepart of a roaring lion, a powerful symbol frequently associated with strength, protection, and civic identity. The lion emerges energetically to the right, its mouth open in a vivid display of vitality. In the left field appears a grain ear, perhaps referencing agricultural fertility or prosperity within the territory controlled by Cnidus. The magistrate's name ΦΙΛΙΝΟΣ identifies the official responsible for the issue, a common practice in Hellenistic civic coinage that allows scholars to trace monetary administration within the city.

Beyond its attractive style, this coin possesses an extraordinary and deeply documented provenance. It originates from the Datça (Cnidus) hoard discovered in 1910, an important deposit of silver coinage from the region that contributed significantly to the study of Cnidian monetary production. Shortly after its discovery, the coin was acquired privately

The coin later entered the collection of Dr. Friedrich Imhoof-Blumer (1838–1920), one of the most important numismatists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Imhoof-Blumer's scholarship profoundly shaped the study of Greek coinage, and his collections formed the basis for numerous foundational publications. Indeed, the present specimen was illustrated and discussed by him in his study Karische Münzen published in the Numismatische Zeitschrift in 1912.
The coin subsequently passed through the hands of a distinguished English Queen's Counsel, further enhancing its historical collecting pedigree, before appearing in several notable auctions including Münzen & Medaillen (1954), Spink (1986), and Classical Numismatic Group (2020).

With its refined Hellenistic artistry, strong connection to Rhodian iconography, and a pedigree that stretches from the Datça hoard through the cabinet of one of the greatest numismatists of the modern era, this coin represents an exceptional and historically rich example of the coinage of Cnidus.

Coin on my website

If you are interested in any other coins I have to offer please visit my website: shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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